



VOSH PROGRAM DIRECTIVE: 02-231A

ISSUED: September 15, 2002

SUBJECT: Interim Inspection Procedures During Communication Tower Construction Activities

A. Purpose.

This Directive continues to provide guidance for the uniform enforcement by field enforcement personnel of the provisions addressing fall protection and safe access to communications towers during construction.

This revised Directive, however, removes the restriction on hoisting employees on the hoist line to their work stations if those work stations are lower than 200 feet.

This Program Directive is an internal guideline, not a statutory or regulatory rule, and is intended to provide instructions to VOSH personnel regarding internal operation of the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Program and is solely for the benefit of the program. This document is not subject to the Virginia Register Act or the Administrative Process Act; it does not have general application and is not being enforced as having the force of law.

B. Scope.

This directive applies VOSH-wide.

C. Reference.

OSHA Instruction CPL 2-1.36 (March 26, 2002)

D. Cancellation.

VOSH PD 02-231 (February 15, 2000) which contained a prohibition on hoisting persons on the hoist line to tower work stations below 200 feet.

E. Action.

Directors and Managers shall ensure that field personnel understand and comply with the procedures and guidelines included in this Directive.

F. Effective Date.

September 15, 2002

G. Expiration Date.

Not Applicable.

H. Background.

Climbing towers can create stress and medical problems. Falls have also been a consequence of conventional methods for climbing towers. To prevent these problems, the industry has asked that employees be allowed to ride a hoist line to work stations on towers.

I. Summary.

Use of hoist lines to get access to tower work stations is permitted, but only if training, special equipment and other requirements are met. This directive outlines these requirements.

This program directive applies only to the construction of new communications towers. Activities such as maintenance, retrofitting, and dismantling will be addressed in a future directive.

C. Ray Davenport

Commissioner

Attachment: OSHA Instruction CPL 2-1.36 (March 26, 2002)

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=DIRECTIVES&p_id=2770&p_text_version=FALSE

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When the guidelines, as set forth in this Program Directive, are applied to the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry and/or to Virginia employers, the following federal terms if, and where they are used, shall be considered to read as below:

Federal Terms

VOSH Equivalent

29 CFR

VOSH Standard

Regional Administrator

Commissioner of Labor and Industry

Area Director

Region Director

Regional Solicitor

Attorney General or VOSH
Office of Legal Support (OLS)

Agency

Department

Office of Statistics

VOSH Research and Analysis

Compliance Safety and Health Officer (CSHO)
and/or Industrial Hygienist

CSHO

Field Inspection Reference Manual (FIRM)

VOSH Field Operations Manual (FOM)